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IWA YWP Regional Call
From Vision to Impact: Young Water Leaders Across Europe

24/07/2026



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EVENT INFORMATION

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EVENT INFORMATION

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1. INTRODUCE YOURSELVES

Feel free to introduce yourselves briefly to one another! Also, it is okay to share your social media.



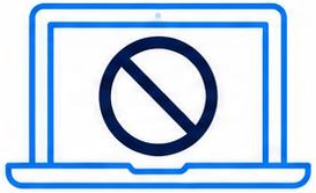
2. MUTE / CAMERA

Mute / camera in the bottom left corner



3. NO NEED TO SHARE SCREEN

No need to share screen as slides have been added to this presentation



4. QUESTIONS

Post questions in the chat, or hold on to them for the Q&A



MODERATORS



Jacqueline Sampah-Adjei

IWA YWP Steering Committee

Ghana



Dr. Rita-Noêlle Moussa

IWA YWP Steering Committee

France

AGENDA

- Welcome Message
- Introduction and housekeeping
- 1st Speaker - Building Bridges: How IWA YWP Chapters Across Europe Are Connecting the Next Generation of Water Leaders

  Lina Saoudi – YWP France
- 2nd Speaker - From Policy to Practice: Young Water Professionals Shaping Water Governance in Europe

  Bruno Durá Garrido – YWP Spain
- 3rd Speaker - Innovation at the Frontline: Youth-Led Solutions for Climate Resilience and Sustainable Water Systems

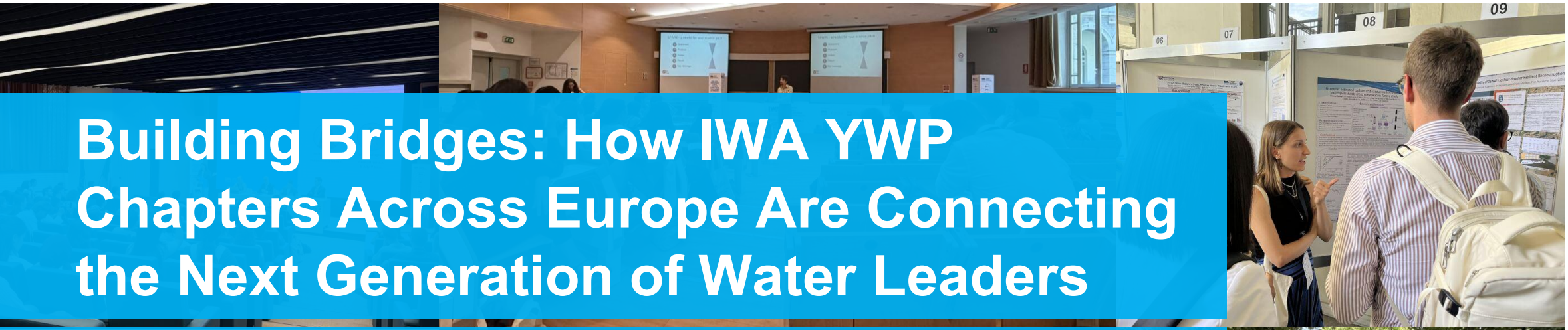
  Albert Salltakaj, Erdonita Humolli – YWP Kosovo
- 4th Speaker - Challenges, Opportunities, and the Road Ahead: The European YWP Perspective

  Denisa Čadková – YWP Czech Republic
- Q&A Panel Discussion
- Recap and Key Takeaways
- Final remarks

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Building Bridges: How IWA YWP Chapters Across Europe Are Connecting the Next Generation of Water Leaders

Lina Saoudi, YWP France





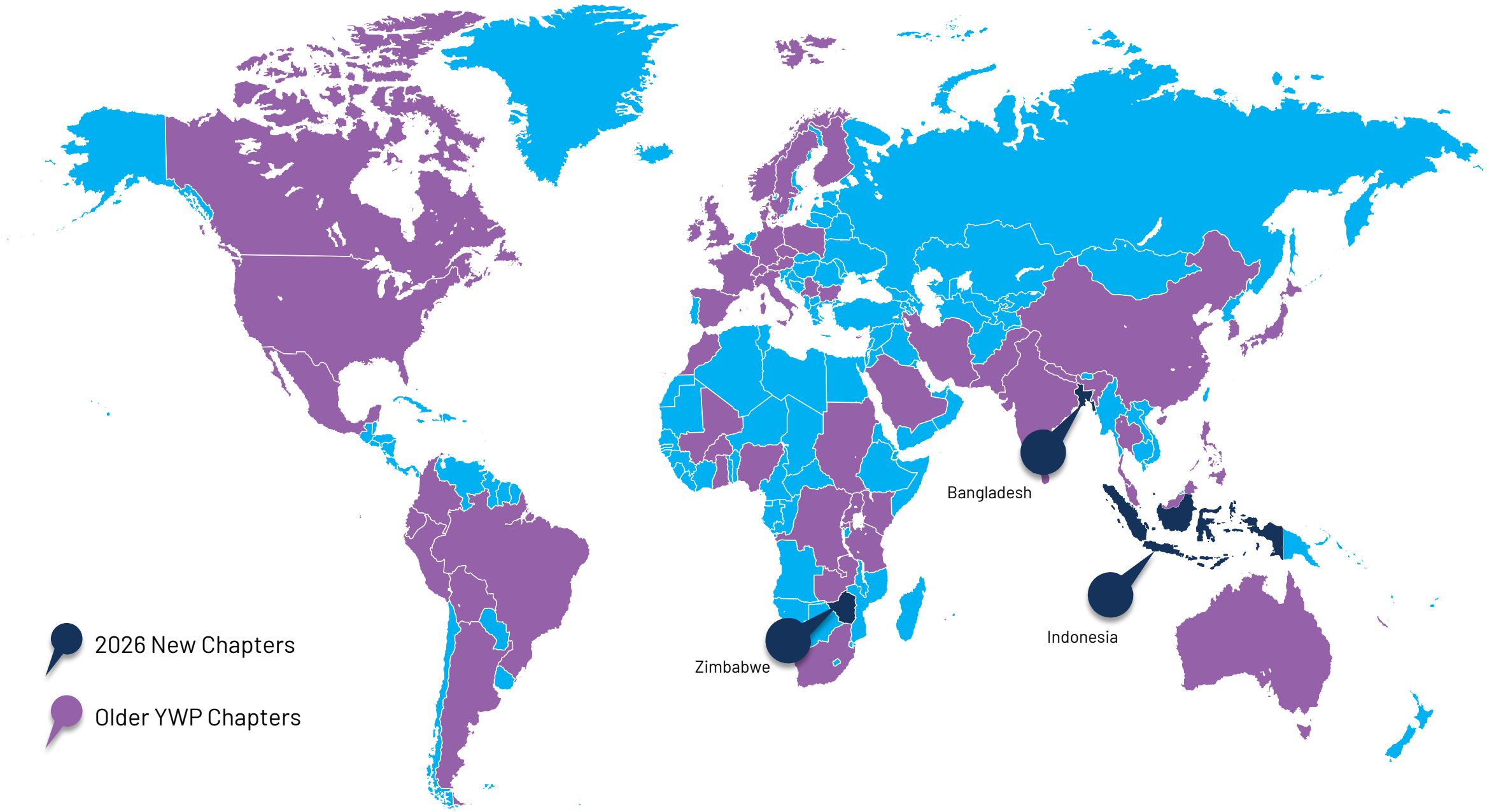




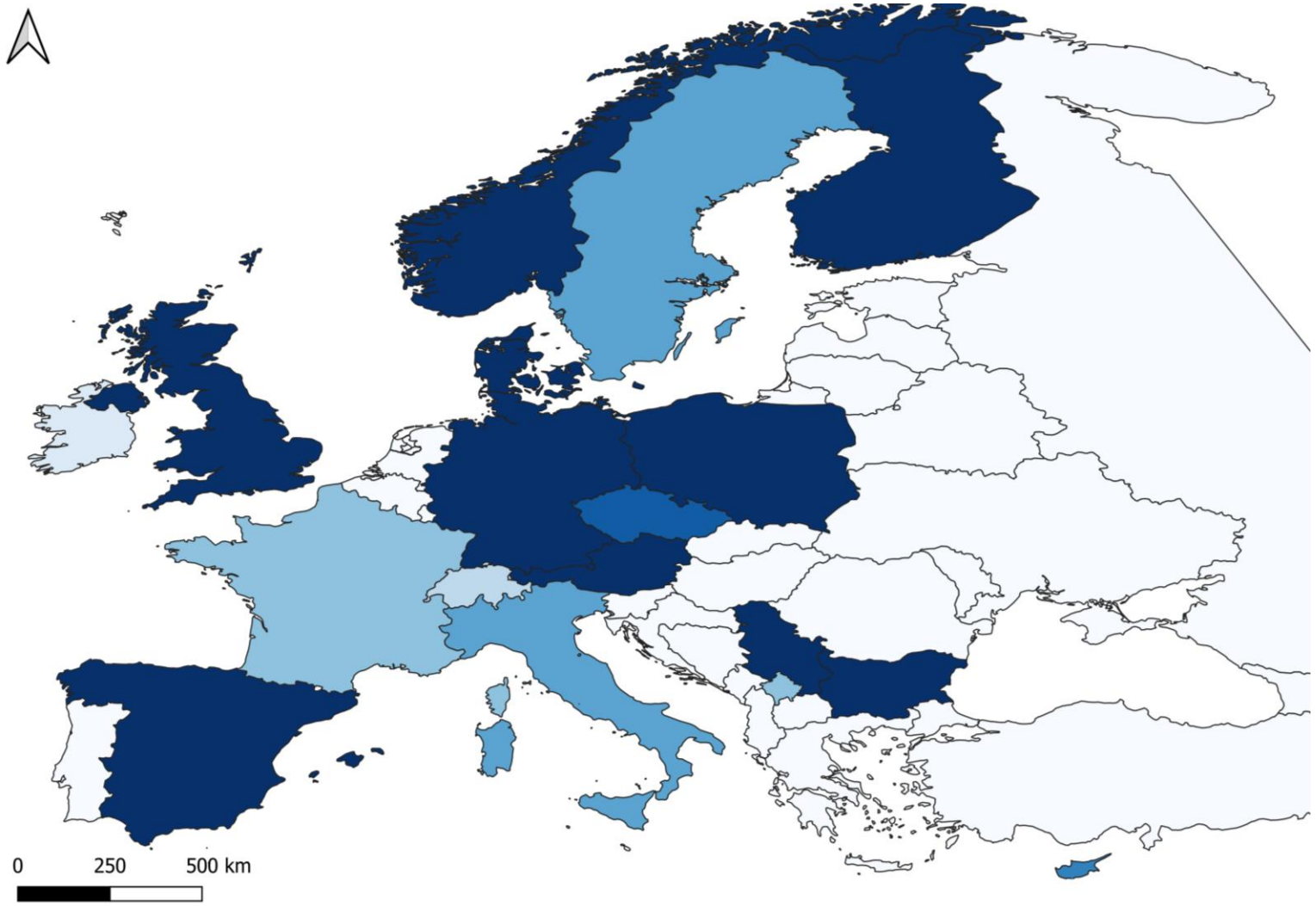




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2026 New Chapters
Older YWP Chapters
Bangladesh
Indonesia
Zimbabwe

The IWA YWP landscape in Europe



- 18 Chapters
- 525 IWA YWP members in Europe
- Between 40 & 50 events annually

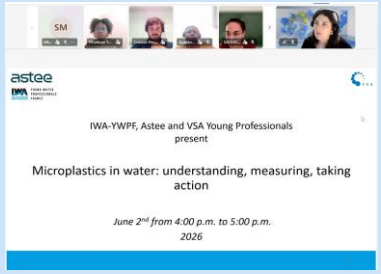
Date of creation
- Before 2019
- 2019
- 2020
- 2021
- 2023
- 2024
- 2025
- NA

Based on IWA data (2026)

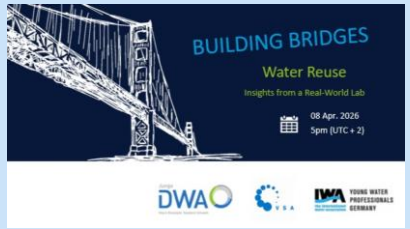
The IWA YWP flagship activities in Europe

Chapter	Date of creation	Flagship activities	Picture	Social media links
Austria	Before 2019	• **23rd IWA International Conference on Diffuse Pollution and Eutrophication** (DIPCON 2026)		• LinkedIn • Website
Bulgaria	Before 2019	• **Water Talks** organized by the YW-BWA, April 7, 2026 → build bonds between YWP during informal events, **IAWD** - Voice of the Danube participation		• Facebook
Cyprus	2020	• **Technical Visit in a desalination plant** organized by the CYWP, November 29, 2025		• LinkedIn • Website
Czech Republic	2016 (2019 IWA)	• Establishment of the **student fund** to travel to conferences for members, new webpage • **IAWD**, **upcoming YWP Czech Conference** for 100 participants, September 2026		• LinkedIn • Website

The IWA YWP flagship activities in Europe

Chapter	Date of creation	Flagship activities	Picture	Social media links
Denmark	Before 2019	• **11th Annual Young Water Professionals Denmark Conference,** March 19-20, 2026 → two days of learning, collaboration, and meaningful dialogue. The focus was on water resilience and knowledge exchange. • Co-organized **YWP Nordic Workshop at NORDIWA,** September 23, 2025		• LinkedIn • Website
Finland	Before 2019	• Co-organized **YWP Nordic Workshop at NORDIWA,** September 23, 2025 → exploring case studies from across the Nordic region such as Individual wastewater plants		• LinkedIn • Website • Facebook
France	2023	• **Webinar – « Microplastics in water: understanding, measuring, taking action » in collaboration with VSA Switzerland** June 2nd, 2026 → exploring the challenge of microplastic pollution in water systems.		• IWA YWP LinkedIn • Astee_Association - Youtube

The IWA YWP flagship activities in Europe

Chapter	Date of creation	Flagship activities	Picture	Social media links
Germany	Before 2019	• **Building Bridges Online Event Series** • **International project implementation** → challenges, problems and success stories		• LinkedIn • Website
Ireland	2025	• **Irish Water Perspective Online Event** • **Research and Networking Day**, September 9, 2026 → Discover cutting-edge work in the water sector happening in universities and industries across Ireland		• LinkedIn
Italy	2021	• **Coffee with YWPIT** • **2nd Young Water Professionals european conference**, 14-17 June, 2026		• LinkedIn • Website • Instagram

The IWA YWP flagship activities in Europe

Chapter	Date of creation	Flagship activities	Picture	Social media links
Kosovo	2023	• **Workshop - "Bringing Water Topics into Schools"** organized by the IWRM-K Program, November 19, 2025 → empowering youth as sustainability ambassadors for schools		• Facebook • Instagram
Norway	Before 2019	• NA	NA	• NA
Poland	Before 2019	• **Conference - "Water - Excellent Science and Industrial Development 3rd Polish Young Water Professionals".** November 15-17, 2023, held at the Poznań University of Technology → Bringing together researchers conducting studies in the water and wastewater sector.		• Website • Facebook
Serbia	2019	• **Belgrade Water Forum,** December 3-5, 2025		• Instagram • Facebook

The IWA YWP flagship activities in Europe

Chapter	Date of creation	Flagship activities	Picture	Social media links
Spain	Before 2019	• **4th IWA-YWP Spain National Conference**, October 2024 • **Upcoming 1st IWA-YWP Iberoamerican Conference**, October 2026		• LinkedIn • Website
Sweden	2021	• **YWP Workshop at EcoSTP2025**, June 24, 2026 → how to shape the future of the water sector and attract more young professionals		• LinkedIn • Website
Switzerland	2024	• **IWA YWP Summer Picnic**, July 12, 2026 → build bonds between YWP during informal events		• LinkedIn
United-Kingdom	Before 2019	• **IWA UK YWP Conference**, March 2026 → topics ranging from water quality in the UK's Lake Windermere to drought prediction in Nigeria, career and innovation dialogue		• LinkedIn

French Chapter brief history: Astee-IWA

- Created in 2023 via the Astee YWP to support and engage young water professionals in France

- *Astee = French association of water and waste management professionals*

Astee key figures

+ **4 000** members

5 Commissions

12 Regional Sections

2 Committees – research and international

1 Scientific Journal – TSM

1 Congress - Annual

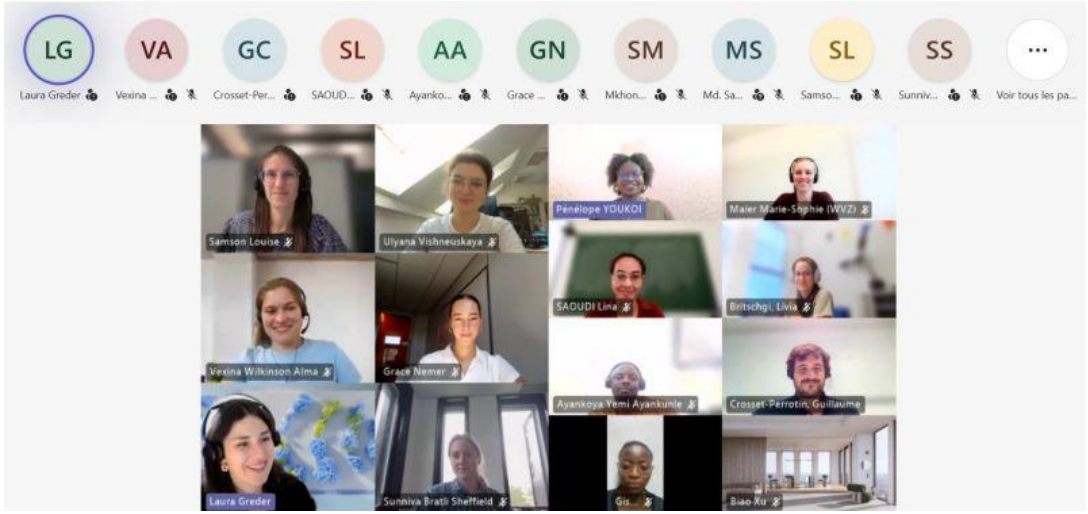
French Chapter flagship activities: Webinars

- Current issues in water quality measurement (March 2026)
  → **38** registrations, **28** participants, **4** feedbacks (all positive)

- Microplastics in water understanding, measuring, taking action (June 2026), in collaboration with the VSA YWP Switzerland → **111** registered, **55** participants, **5** feedbacks (all positive)



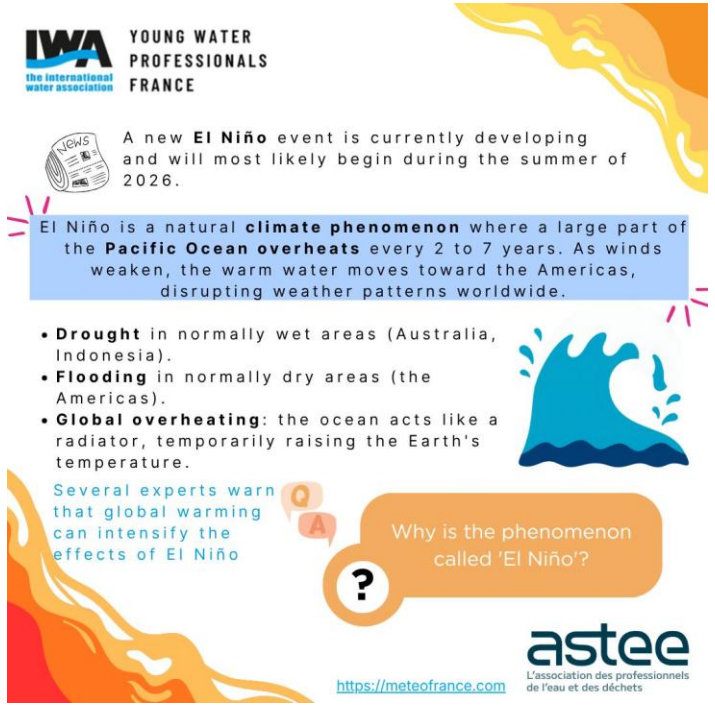




Flagship activities of the French Chapter: Blue'lletin

- Blue'lletin monthly newsletter on Linkedin: aim at boosting our digital presence on LinkedIn during no-events periods
- (e.g., last Blue'lletin reached 86 people, + 15 % than the previous day)





Flagship activities of the French Chapter: UNESCO events

- UNESCO Headquarters in Paris
- Participated in 2 UNESCO events 2025



Pitch for the International Day of Glaciers (March 2025)



UNESCO Water Youth Dialogue (June 2025)

Flagship activities of the French Chapter: UNESCO WYD

- First UNESCO water youth dialogue (WYD) in June 2025 co-organized by the Global Youth Movement for Water (GYMW)
- 60 young representatives from 40 water youth organizations



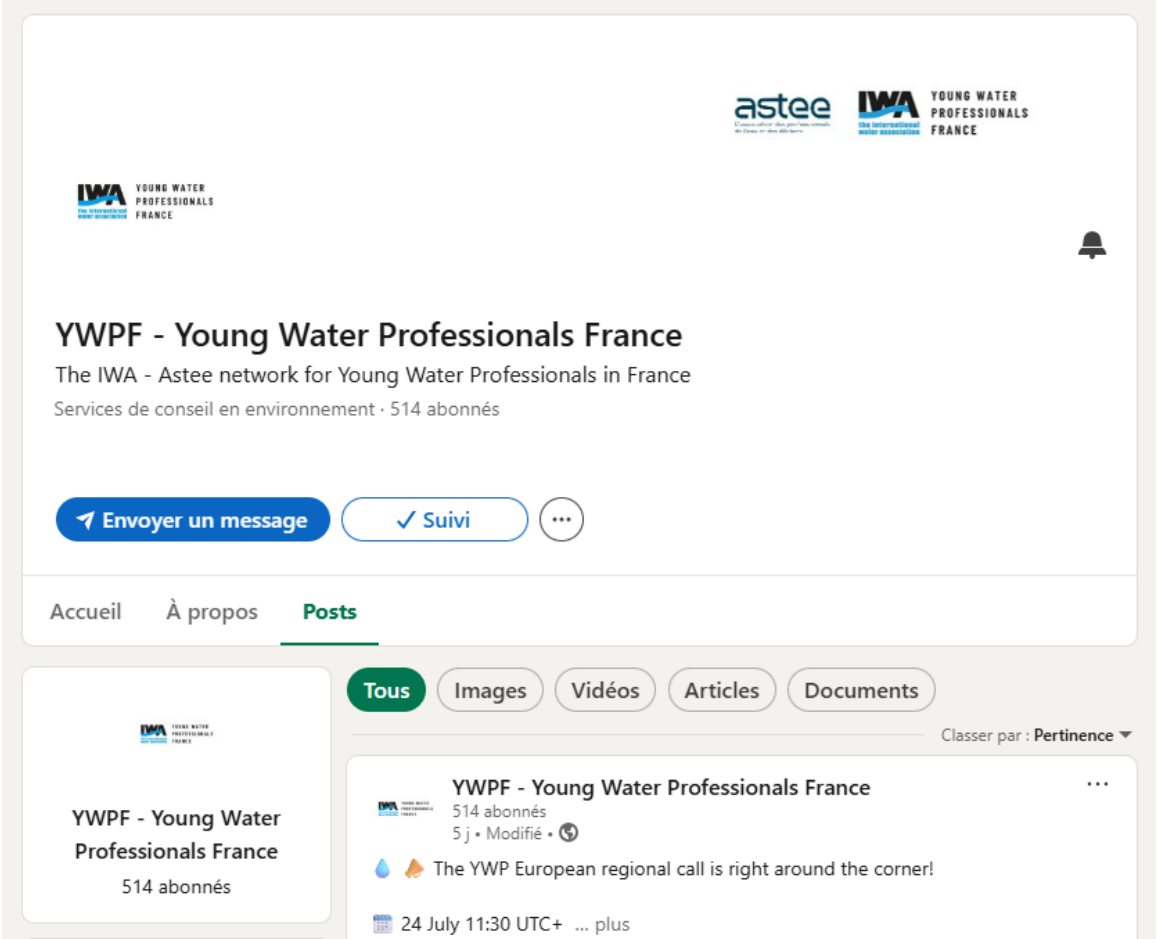
Flagship activities of the French Chapter: UNESCO WYD

→ Barriers identified to full engagement of YWP in water policy:

- Limited water sector opportunities for YWP due to scarce financial and institutionnal support
- Thematically and geographical fragmented YWP groups
- Significant career gaps faced by YWP
- Underrepresentation of YWP in water management and governance processes at all levels

Thanks for your attention!

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From Policy to Practice: Young Water Professionals Shaping Water Governance in Europe

Bruno Durá Garrido, YWP Spain



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Partnerships turn access into sector influence

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THE ROUTE

01 ACCESS
DAQUAS + technical commissions

→

02 PARTNER
Signed agreements + working channels

→

03 INFLUENCE
Capability, reach + policy dialogue

SPAIN: THE INSTITUTIONAL ANCHOR

DAQUAS backs YWP Spain

19 technical commissions

500+ experts shaping sector evidence

Networks • treatment • circular economy • legal • energy • innovation

SIGNED AGREEMENTS: EACH ONE ADDS A GOVERNANCE LEVER

VOICE & VISIBILITY	**CICCP • AguasResiduales.info** Professional forums • expert communities • sector reach
CAPABILITY & EVIDENCE	**Esri Spain** GIS training and tools for stronger technical contributions
BRIDGES & NEW AGENDAS	**WTA EU • ALADYR • Minería es Más • Hispano-Danish Chamber** Technology exchange • reuse • sustainable mining • innovation

Sources: YWP Spain, DAQUAS and partner announcements (2024–2026)



The agreement is not the outcome.
The working channel is.

IWA Emerging Water Leaders Forum

Innovation at the Frontline: Youth-Led Solutions for Climate Resilience and Sustainable Water Systems

Albert Salltakaj & Erdonita Humolli, YWP Kosovo





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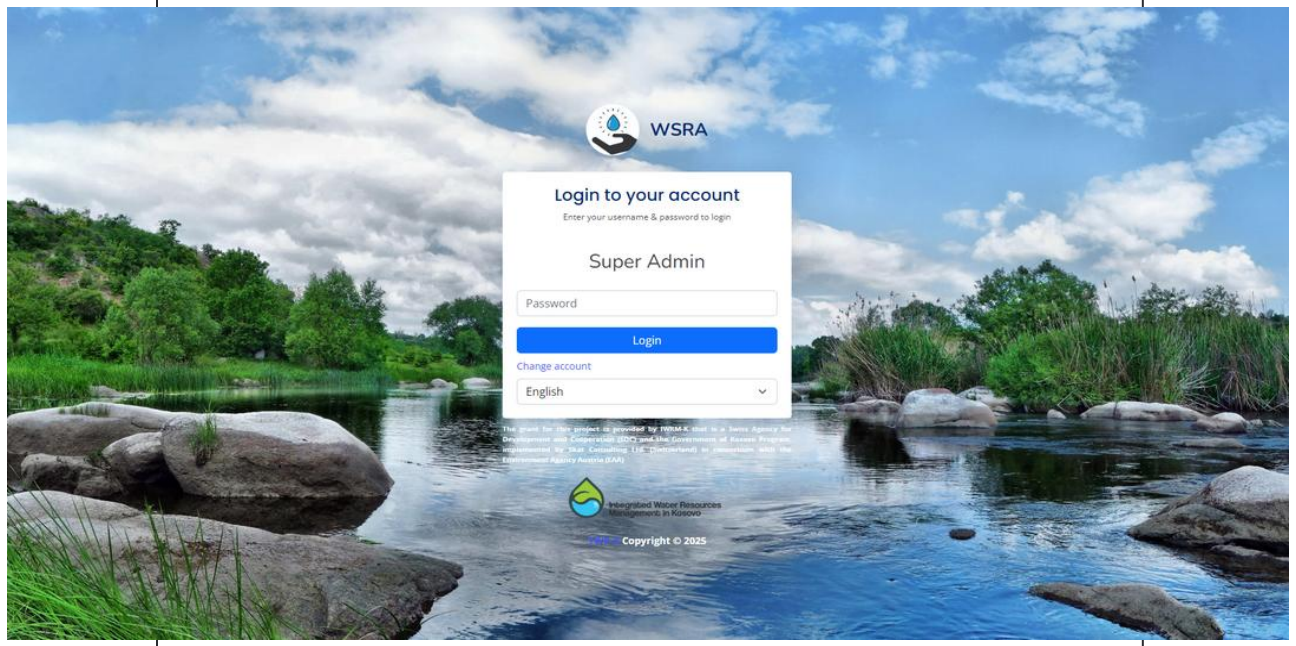
OUR VISION



YWP-Kosovo aims to empower, mobilize, and develop the professional determination of young professionals in the water sector.

YWP-K First Grant: Demonstrating the Power of Youth-Led Innovation





Problematics and idea

- Low credibility of data
- Losing data consistency
- Unstructured data
- Delayed decision making

Financing

- IWRM-K & SDC
- 30,000 €
- 18 members worked on it

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

Republika e Kosovës
Republika Kosova-Republic of Kosovo
Qeveria
Vlada-Government

Integrated Water Resources Management in Kosovo

skat Swiss Resource Centre and Consultancies for Development

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY AUSTRIA umweltbundesamt

YWP-K First Grant: Demonstrating the Power of Youth-Led Innovation



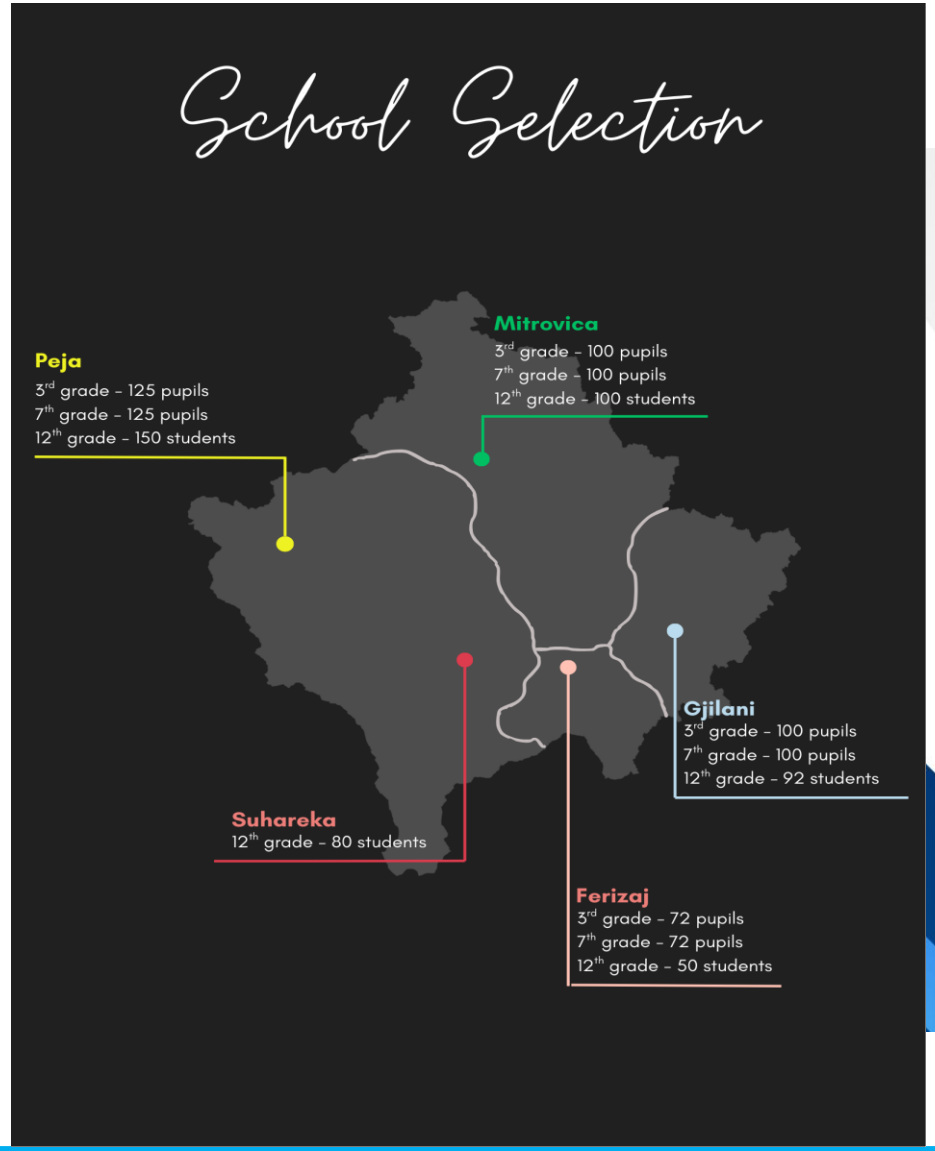
The Water Services Information System (**WSIS**) enables **Regional Water Companies** (**RWCs**) to report and manage water abstraction data efficiently while ensuring compliance with regulatory authorities.

- Enables **RWCs** to report water abstraction and quality data.
- Ensures compliance with regulatory authorities.

- Key Entities:
  - **WSRA (ARRU): Regulates water services.**
  - **RRBA (ARPL): Manages water resources.**
  - **NIPH (IKSHPK): Monitors water quality.**
  - **Municipalities: Support local water service management.**
- Main Functions:
  - Reporting water abstraction volumes.
  - Tracking regulatory payments.
  - Monitoring water quality (linked to SISHU).

Enhancing transparency and data reliability in the water

Innovation Through Education: EduWater Kosovo

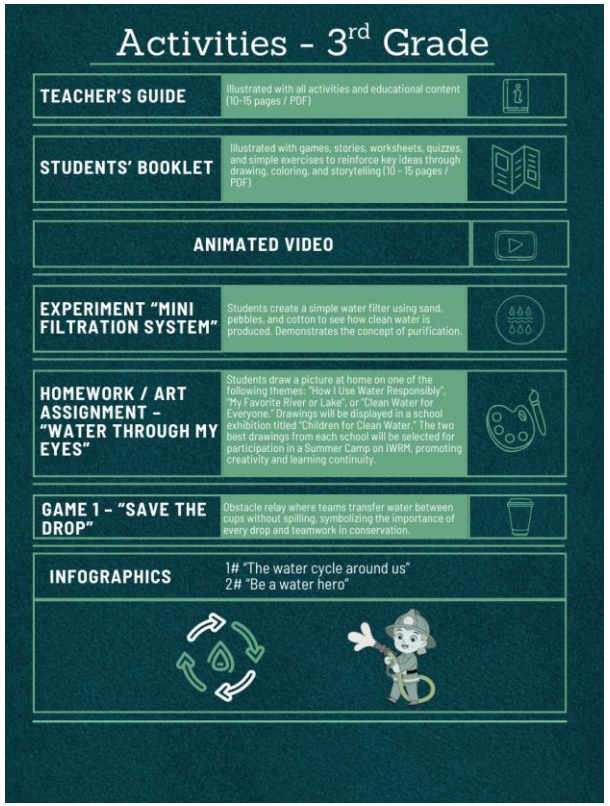


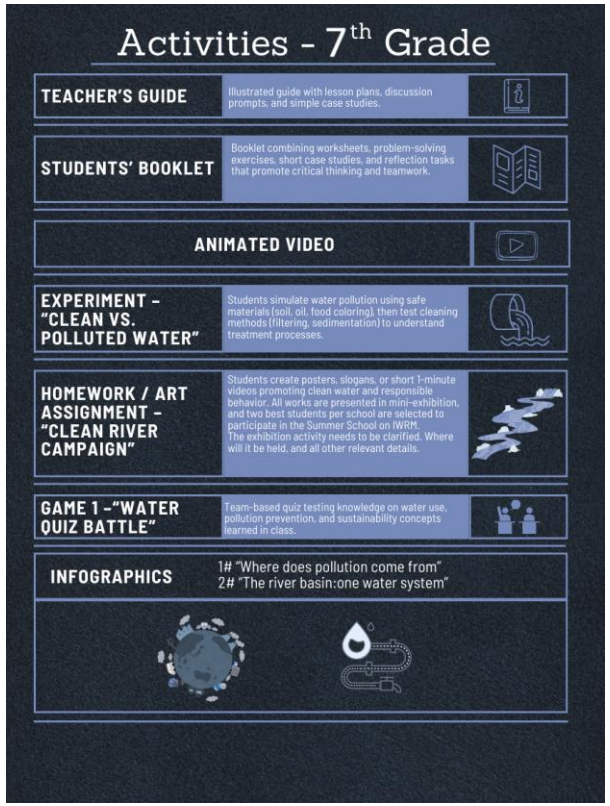


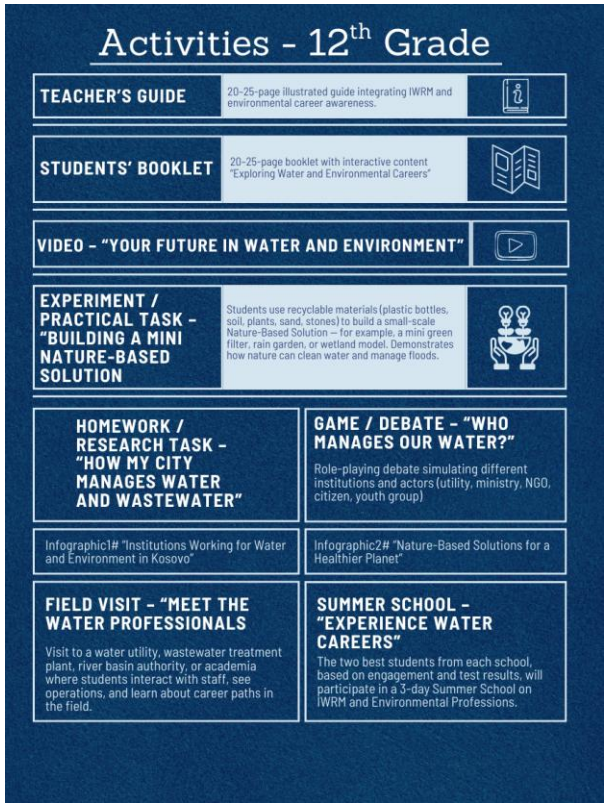
EDUwaterKOSOVO

Innovation Through Education: EduWater Kosovo

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3	9	5	1,200+	30+	16
Grade packages	Pilot schools	Municipalities	Students	Teachers	Months

Mapping the Future: Digitalizing Kosovo's Water Infrastructure

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~400
water infrastructure assets to be inventoried

38
Kosovo municipalities

4
River basins

1
National GIS register for small dams

Three Pillars of the Final Deliverable

01	**Field verification**	GPS location, photographs, measurements, condition assessment, functionality, and minimum evidence for every asset.
02	**Technical Database + GIS**	Standardized attributes, QA/QC procedures, metadata, and formats ready for institutional integration.
03	**Institutional Use**	Supporting planning, prioritization, public reporting, and integration into national information systems.

Project Spatial Coverage

IBR	Ibri / Sitnica	**BIN**	Morava e Binçës
LEP	Lepenci	**DRB**	Drini i Bardhë

What Are We Building and Why?

From field verification to a national registry: one structure, one ID, one verified record.

Who Uses this Register and How

The register creates value only when field data is transformed into actionable decision-making.

Practical Benefits of the Register

- ✓ A unified database for identifying, comparing, and prioritizing small water infrastructure assets..
- ✓ Evidence-based information on physical condition, functionality, and minimum intervention needs.
- ✓ Standardized GIS layers with metadata, ready for QA/QC and institutional publication.
- ✓ An end-to-end workflow (D1 → D6) connecting field surveys with the database, reporting, and final publication.

Delivery Workflow



KEY USERS

MMPH - MESP/ PIU
Planning, monitoring, and prioritization.,

KCA / Geoportal
Spatial data integration and public dissemination.

Municipalities / RWCs
Asset maintenance, local reference, and verification.

FLOWS Team
Field surveys, QA/QC, database management, and reportin

Key Message
Every coordinate, photograph, and classification collected today will support future evidence-based decisions by institutions and water sector stakeholders.
.

Challenges, Opportunities, and the Road Ahead: The European YWP Perspective

Denisa Čadková, YWP Czech Republic

Partners









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Why YWPs matter

- **Europe needs a new generation of water leaders.**

- Ageing workforce
- Climate change and water resilience
- Digitalisation, Innovation and legislation
- Need for interdisciplinary cooperation

Challenges for YWPs in Europe

- **What holds YWPs back?**

- Gap between education and real practice
- Limited influence in decision-making
- Lack of mentoring and leadership opportunities
- Unequal access to conferences, networks and international experience
- Voluntary engagement can lead to overload
- Low visibility of the water sector

Opportunities for YWPs in Europe

- **Connect**
  - Join national YWP groups • European YWP community
- **Keep learning**
  - Webinars • Workshops • Summer schools • Training courses
  - Use opportunities offered by Erasmus+, IWA, IAWD,…
- **Explore**
  - Technical visits • Different approaches and technologies • Knowledge Exchange
- **Contribute**
  - Conferences • Presentations • Committees of Conferences • Event organisation

Opportunities IWA YWP CZ Creates for YWPs









Access to Knowledge

IWA YWP CZ



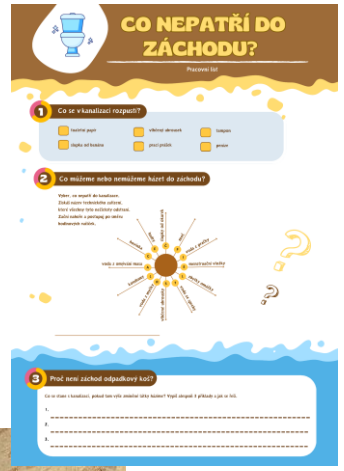




Opportunities IWA YWP CZ Creates for YWPs

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Access to Projects

IWA YWP CZ



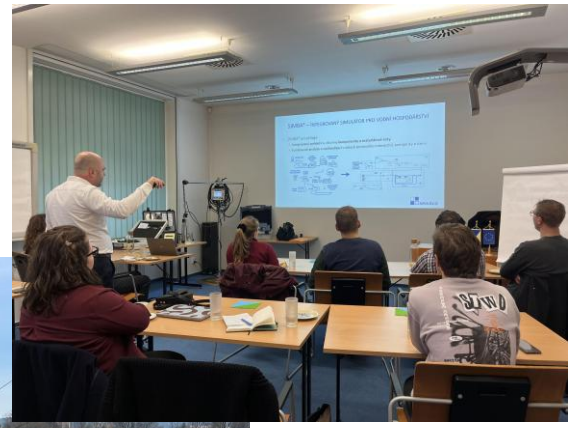








Opportunities IWA YWP CZ Creates for YWPs











IWA YWP CZ ↔ Access to Companies and Utilities





Opportunities IWA YWP CZ Creates for YWPs







IWA YWP CZ

Access to International Opportunities

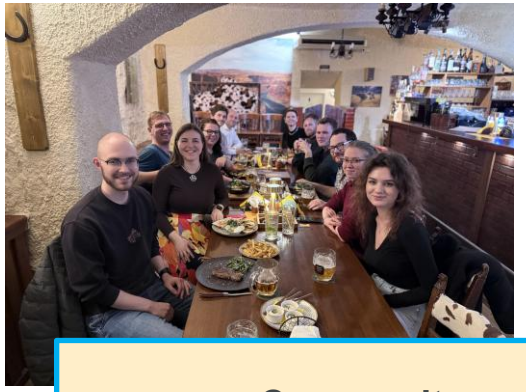


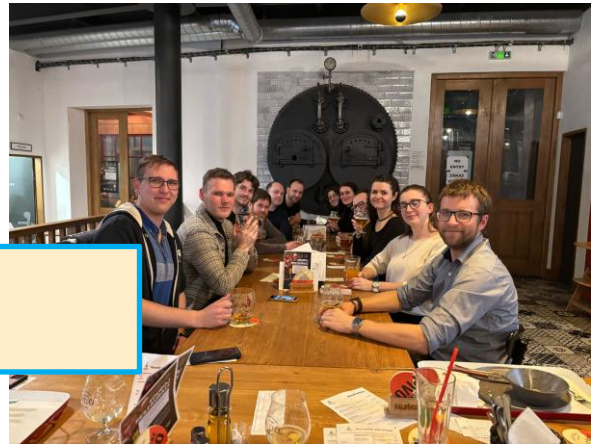
Opportunities IWA YWP CZ Creates for YWPs

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Community

IWA YWP CZ









The Road Ahead

Connect. Empower. Act.

- From participation to real influence.
- From networking to joint action.
- From isolated national chapters to a connected European community.

- Building bridges between generations.
- Making opportunities accessible to everyone.
- Becoming visible beyond the water sector.

Q&A

Rita-Noelle Moussa, IWA YWP Steering Committe



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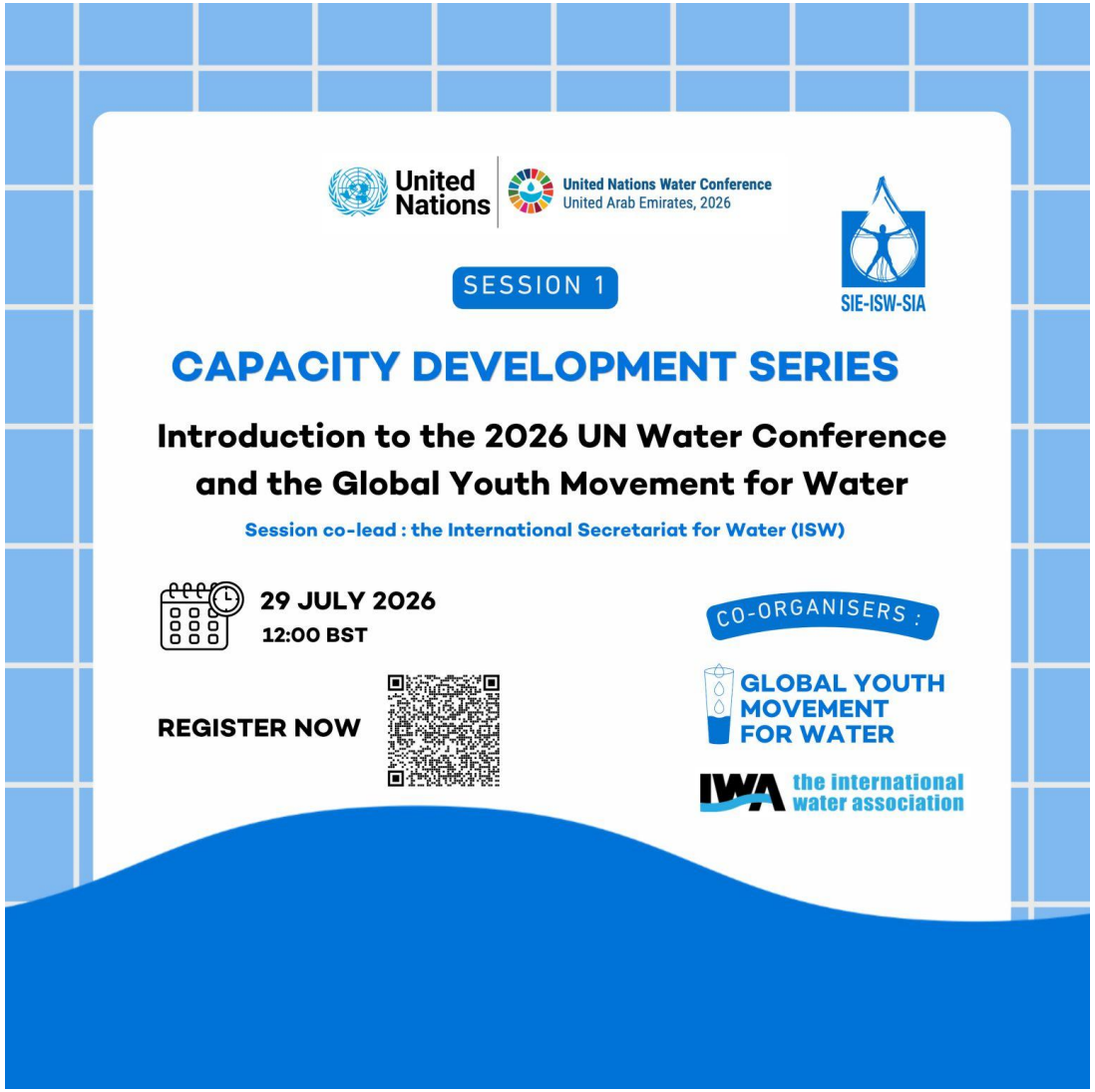
Recap and Takeaways

Jacqueline Sampah-Adjei, IWA YWP Steering Committee



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UPCOMING IWA EVENTS



UPCOMING IWA EVENTS





UPCOMING IWA EVENTS

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UPCOMING IWA EVENTS



UPCOMING IWA EVENTS





UPCOMING IWA EVENTS





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Use code **YWP26IWA** for a **20% discount off** for a new membership.

Join before 31 December 2026 at:
https://iwa-network.org/join/

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Learn more at

https://iwa-network.org/young-water-professionals/